

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ATHENS 05595 151621Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----151621Z 079176 /40

O R 151557Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1143  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T ATHENS 5595

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS OTHER ADDEES AS APPROPRIATE

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MASS, GR, TU  
SUBJ: U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS

REF: STATE 138322

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS AND DISCRETION PROVIDED REFTEL, I HAVE DECIDED TO PROCEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO HAVE A PRIVATE MEETING AND DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS. I INTEND TO DRAW ON THE CONTENTS OF REFTEL, AS APPROPRIATE, AND SEEK TO REACH AN AGREEMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A BASIS THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON. I EXPECT THAT BITSIOS WILL SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE TO GO OVER THE SUBJECT FULLY AND CAREFULLY WITH CARAMANLIS.

2. IF CARAMANLIS' DECISION IS AFFIRMATIVE I WILL NOTIFY WASHINGTON AT ONCE. IF, HOWEVER, THE RESPONSE IS NEGATIVE OR EQUIVOCAL, MY PRESENT INTENTION IS TO GO NEXT TO CARAMANLIS PERSONALLY AND DIRECTLY.

3. I AGREE WITH REFTEL THAT IT IS PREFERABLE FOR THIS INITIAL DIS-  
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CUSSION TO BE HANDLED DIRECTLY BY ME HERE IN ATHENS AND THAT THIS OFFERS THE BEST PROSPECT AT THIS STAGE OF REACHING A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT PROMPTLY. I HAVE ALSO FELT IT PREFERABLE TO MAKE THE INITIAL PRESENTATION PRIVATELY TO BITSIOS AND HAVE HIM BRIEF CARAMANLIS FULLY BEFORE I SEE CARAMANLIS MYSELF, IF INDEED THAT BECOMES NECESSARY. I WILL TAKE A STRONG LINE AND IF FOR ANY REASON I AM NOT SUCCESSFUL WE WILL HAVE IN RESERVE THE POSSIBILITY OF A

SUBSEQUENT MEETING IN ATHENS, WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE WITH HIGH LEVEL WASHINGTON-BASED OFFICIALS.

4. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET WITH BITSIOS (WHO IS TIED UP WITH MAKARIOS IN THE INTERIM) EARLY TOMORROW AFTER-NOON. I SHALL SEND A REPORT AS SOON AS I CAN PREPARE IT AFTER THAT MEETING. HOWEVER, SINCE BITSIOS ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL HAVE TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH CARAMANLIS AND SINCE THE PRIME MINISTER IS NOT ALWAYS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE, I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF IT WERE SATURDAY OR PERHAPS EVEN SOMEWHAT LATER BEFORE I HAD THEIR CONSIDERED AND OFFICIAL RESPONSE. THEREFORE, UNLESS SOMETHING UNFORESEEN HAPPENS DURING MY MEETING WITH BITSIOS TOMORROW AFTER-NOON, IT SEEMS MOST UNLIKELY TO ME THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO GO AHEAD WITH THE SMALL TEAM DISCUSSIONS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED FOR JUNE 20TH BUT THEY COULD POSSIBLY COMMENCE WITHIN A COUPLE OF DAYS THEREAFTER.  
KUBISCH

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** MARR, MASS, GR, TU, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009